

Adult Education Advisory Committee  
October 13, 2004  
Utah State Office of Education  
Room 241  
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes

**PRESENT:** Members: James Andersen (chair), Kim Dohrer (past chair), Paula Oakey (chair elect), Suzette Hudson, Cindy Krueger, Don Uchida, Edie Mitko, Wayne Mifflin, Norman Nakamura, David Peterson, Herb Clark, Mary Ann Parkinson, Edwin Espinel, Dave Steele, Shauna South, Sandi Grant, Jeff Galli, David Frost (guest), Murray Meszaros and Gail Burningham (secretary).

**EXCUSED:** Don Carpenter and Kim Dohrer

**Welcome and Introductions**

The Adult Education Advisory meeting was held September 8, 2004 at the Utah State Office of Education in room 241. Jim Andersen welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced him/herself and stated the group they represent.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the September 8, 2004 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the September's minutes, after changing the location of the Governor's Literacy Summit to South Towne Expo Center, was made by Don Uchida. Edie Mitko seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**PowerPoint Presentation**

Dave Steele presented the Adult Education PowerPoint presentation that is being developed to promote adult education throughout the state. This presentation will be a model for making presentations in various areas of the state. Some suggestions to improve the presentation were: 1) Remove the question marks on one of the slides. 2) Update the number of graduates and GED's. 3) Add a slide to show the number of children impacted by adult education. 4) Change the wording from Division of Workforce Services to Department of Workforce Services. In addition, it was stated that a district or community-based organization could adapt it to a long version highlighting local program offerings (ABE, ESL, AHSC and GED). This could include pictures of places/persons that a local district/program emphasizes in their programs. Dave reminded us that adults without a high school diploma are challenged to support their own education by paying tuition, when within our society, clearly those with a diploma have more money than those without a diploma.

Edie mentioned the Governor's Literacy meeting and said that from this meeting came recommendations to support adult education and to increase literacy in the state. Dave handed out census data that he will give to the adult education directors at their meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>. He will also show the slide presentation at that meeting. The suggestion was made to see if there are any longitudinal studies comparing the education of the parent to the education of the child in subsequent generations and also the education of the parent compared to regular school attendance and the GPA's of their children. The advisory committee would like to see statistics

on this. It was suggested that Dave Steele raise that question at the next Governor's Commission on Literacy meeting.

### **How To Approach Businesses To Gain Support**

Herb Clark and Mary Ann Parkinson presented information on how to approach businesses. They gave us some ideas, including a sample letter that can be given to businesses what could be to elicit support for adult education. They felt it would be good to show the PowerPoint presentation in conjunction with this letter. It was suggested that the fee issue, where adults have to pay a fees to attend ABE / ESOL and/or AHSC classes, be included in the letter.

Mary Ann talked about the book drive for Horizonte students presently going on at Barnes and Noble. Students listed various book titles they want to read and patrons/employees of their store purchase these books for the students. She mentioned the need to personalized the need for adult education and said Barnes and Noble's display of photographs and individual adult education success stories has had an impact on people coming into the store. Businesses have asked about the book drive and she feels it is easy to get support for our adult student population.

Edie talked about the increase in production costs when workers are not educated and the cost associated with teaching skills in the workplace that employees should already have mastered. She suggested that we approach the Chamber of Commerce regarding this. It was mentioned that there are businesses and industries that don't care about production costs and some that take advantage of under educated and under employed individuals. We need to target industries and business and let them know how easy it is to train educated individuals and the fact that they tend to stay on the job longer. It was suggested that we add a slide to the adult education presentation stating this. The presentation could be e-mailed to businesses, industries and community-based organizations that support adult education.

Suzette was asked to see if she could find out the number of under-employed and unemployed individuals by industry as the committee would like to examine this information. Deferring the value of the WPU (weight of pupil unit) to cover the cost of the drop out students returning to adult education programs was discussed; the committee wants to try to determine value of unused WPU for drop outs last year. The earning capability of an educated population was discussed. Jim said he would try to get in touch with Ken Jamason to see if we can get some information from the University of Utah economics department. We will also ask for statistics on which businesses and industries hire the most persons by region, so we can target them.

Norman explained the value of the grant given Granite school district where they provided not only ESL training but also culture awareness for the employer and management teams. There are business and industry groups that value adult education and ESOL education.

### **Other Business**

Edie informed the group that the Literacy Summit will be held November 16<sup>th</sup> and will be all day in the South Towne Expo Center (9575 S State). Edie will get registrations out; she already provided us with a "Save the Day" flyer. She requested that we let her know, if we know of any non-profit organizations that would like to have a table at the summit. She also wants to know of for profit venders that would like to attend. They are looking for book sellers that focus on a diversity community (Black, Hispanic, Asian and American Indian). If we have success stories,

get them to her as they want to showcase them during the summit. They would like to put together a directory of literacy programs in the state so let them know of literacy programs.

Jeff reported information from the Governor's homeless effort sub-committees in which he is involved. Offenders and those being released from prison, that don't have a strong support system, are clearly at risk for being homeless. The value of education in ending chronic homelessness is huge as you might expect and it is important to get them to a point where they can be productive. Governor Walker has put a huge effort into helping the homeless.

Murray gave information and statistics on the two states that allow 16-year olds to take the GED. A handout was distributed that showed state-by-state the requirements for taking the GED. At our next meeting he will talk about the changes in the number of 16 year olds staying in school versus leaving school when states allow them to take the GED.

### **Agenda Items for October Meeting**

- Murray will give information on 16 year olds taking the GED
- Shauna will give information on the National Center for Family Literacy and the number of children of adults who do not have high school diplomas.
- Suzette will tell us about the number of unemployed or under employed individuals by industry as well as employers who hire the most persons by regions in our state. This information will be give to directors throughout our state.
- Dave will give information about who was elected state wide to facilitate contacts for the adult education presentation.
- Dave will show the final improved PowerPoint presentation.

### **Adjourn**

Jim Andersen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Edie moved to adjourn the meeting and Cindy seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. The next meeting will be held October 13, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in room 241.